

2000). Following each claim number is a slash character “/” followed by the claim’s number in the Leighton ‘703 Patent. E.g., newly added claim 41 corresponds to claim 1 of the Leighton ‘703 Patent, therefore it is denoted here as “41/1”.

--41/1. (New) A distributed hosting framework operative in a computer network in which users of client machines connect to a content provider server, the framework comprising:

a routine for modifying at least one embedded object URL of a web page
5 to include a hostname prepended to a domain name and path;

a set of content servers, distinct from the content provider server, for hosting at least some of the embedded objects of web pages that are normally hosted by the content provider server;

at least one first level name server that provides a first level domain name
10 service (DNS) resolution; and

at least one second level name server that provides a second level domain name service (DNS) resolution;

wherein in response to requests for the web page, generated by the client machines the web page including the modified embedded object URL is served
15 from the content provider server and the embedded object identified by the modified embedded object URL is served from a given one of the content servers as identified by the first level and second level name servers.

42/4. (New) The hosting framework as described in claim 41 wherein a
20 given one of the set of servers includes a buddy server for assuming the hosting

responsibilities of the given one of the set of servers upon a given failure condition.

5 43/5. (New) The hosting framework as described in claim 41 wherein the second level name server includes a load balancing mechanism that balances loads across a subset of the set of servers.

10 44/6. (New) The hosting framework as described in claim 43 wherein the load balancing mechanism minimizes the amount of replication required for the embedded objects while not exceeding a capacity of any of the set of servers.

15 45/9. The hosting framework as described in claim 41 wherein the first level name server includes a network map for use in directing a request for the embedded object generated by a client.

 46/10. (New) The hosting framework as described in claim 41 wherein a server in the set of servers includes a gating mechanism for maintaining overall traffic for a given embedded object within specified limits.

20 47/11. (New) The hosting framework as described in claim 44 wherein the gating mechanism comprises:

 means for determining whether a number of requests for the given embedded object exceeds a given threshold; and

means responsive to the determining means for restricting service of the given embedded object.

48/14. (New) A method of serving a page supported at a content provider server, the page comprising a markup language base document having associated therewith a set of embedded objects, each embedded object identified by a URL, comprising the steps of:

rewriting the URL of an embedded object to generate a modified URL, the modified URL including a new hostname prepended to an original hostname, wherein the original hostname is maintained as part of the modified URL for use in retrieving the embedded object whenever a cached copy of the embedded object is not available;

in response to a request to serve the page received at the content provider site, serving the page with the modified URL;

attempting to serve the embedded object from a content server other than the content provider server as identified by the new hostname; and

if the cached copy of the embedded object is not available from the content server, serving the embedded object from the content provider server.

49/15. (New) A method of serving a page and an associated page object, wherein the page is stored on a content provider server and copies of the page object are stored on a set of content servers distinct from the content provider server, comprising the steps of:

(a) modifying a URL for the page object to include a hostname prepended to a content provider-supplied domain name and path;

(b) serving the page from the content provider server with the modified URL;

5 (c) responsive to a browser query to resolve the hostname, identifying a given one of the set of content servers from which the object may be retrieved; and

(d) returning to the browser an IP address of the identified content server to enable the browser to attempt to retrieve the object from that content server.

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50/16. (New) The method as described in claim 49 wherein the copies of the page object are stored on a subset of the set of content servers.

51/17. (New) A content delivery method, comprising:

15 tagging an embedded object in a page to resolve to a domain other than a content provider domain by prepending given data to a content provider-supplied URL to generate an alternate resource locator (ARL);

serving the page from a content provider server with the ARL; and

resolving the ARL to identify a content server in the domain; and

20 serving the embedded object from the identified content server.

52/18. (New) The method as described in claim 49/17 wherein the step of resolving the ARL comprises:

utilizing a requesting user's location and data identifying then-current Internet traffic conditions to identify the content server.

53/19. (New) A content delivery service, comprising:

5 replicating a set of page objects across a wide area network of content servers managed by a domain other than a content provider domain;

for a given page normally served from the content provider domain, tagging the embedded objects of the page so that requests for the page objects resolve to the domain instead of the content provider domain;

10 responsive to a request for the given page received at the content provider domain, serving the given page from the content provider domain; and

serving at least one embedded object of the given page from a given content server in the domain instead of from the content provider domain.

15 54/20. (New) The content delivery method as described in claim 51 wherein the serving step comprises:

for each embedded object, identifying one or more content servers from which the embedded object may be retrieved.

20 55/21. (New) The method as described in claim 54 wherein the identifying step comprises:

resolving a request to the domain as a function of a requesting user's location.

56/22. (New) The method as described in claim 55 wherein the identifying step comprises:

resolving a request to the domain as a function of a requesting user's location and then-current Internet traffic conditions.

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57/23. (New) A method for Internet content delivery, comprising:

at the content provider server, modifying at least one embedded object URL of a page to include a hostname prepended to a domain name and a path normally used to retrieve the embedded object;

10 responsive to a request for the page issued from a client machine, serving the page with the modified embedded object URL to the client machine from the content provider server;

responsive to a request for the embedded object, resolving the hostname to an IP address of a content server, other than the content provider server, that is
15 likely to host the embedded object; and

attempting to serve the embedded object to the client from the content server.

58/31. (New) The method as described in claim 57 wherein the page is
20 formatted according to a markup language.

59/32. (New) The method as described in claim 57 further including the step of rewriting the embedded object URL as the content provider modifies the page.

60/33. (New) The method as described in claim 57 wherein the step of resolving the hostname includes:

identifying a subset of content servers that may be available to serve the embedded object based on a location of the client machine and current Internet traffic conditions; and

identifying the content server from the subset of content servers.

61/34. (New) A content delivery method, comprising:

distributing a set of page objects across a network of content servers managed by a domain other than a content provider domain, wherein the network of content servers are organized into a set of regions;

for a given page normally served from the content provider domain, tagging at least some of the embedded objects of the page so that requests for the objects resolve to the domain instead of the content provider domain;

in response to a client request for an embedded object of the page:

resolving the client request as a function of a location of the client machine making the request and current Internet traffic conditions to identify a given region; and

returning to the client an IP address of a given one of the content servers within the given region that is likely to host the embedded object and that is not overloaded.--